GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1687
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
MANDATORY TREATMENT OF POOR PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for hospitals in the country to provide treatment to poor patients to the extent of 30 percent in their hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to refer patients from Government hospitals to private hospitals in order to ensure that the said conditions/ norms are being followed by the private hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (e) Health being a state list subject, it is for the concerned State Government to provide medical facilities to the people in accordance with the prevalent rules & regulations in their respective state. There are no Central Act/Rules/Regulations/guidelines which make it mandatory for hospitals in the country to provide treatment to poor people to the extent of 30 percentage.

However, as per directions of the Delhi High Court, Government of NCT of Delhi have framed guidelines for provision of free treatment facilities to the extent of 10% free beds and 25% free OPD patients of Economically Weaker Section category by those private hospitals which have been provided land at concessional rates. These guidelines have been sent to 36 hospitals for compliance. Any of these private hospitals found to be not complying with these guidelines is to be proceeded against as per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court and such hospital will also be liable for contempt of the Court.

Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are referring poor patients to such private hospitals.